

CHAPTER 24 FIREARMS BOUNTY FUND

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2400 AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

- 2400.1 The purpose of this chapter is to provide rules to administer the Firearms Bounty Fund (Fund) established by D.C. Code 6-2384.
- 2400.2 The Firearms Bounty Fund shall be operated as a proprietary fund and shall consist of monies appropriated to the Fund, federal grants to the Fund, or private monies donated to the Fund.
- 2400.3 The Fund shall be administered by the Metropolitan Police Department.
- 2400.4 Disbursements from the Fund shall be used exclusively for the payment of cash rewards to persons who provide District of Columbia law enforcement agencies with tips that lead to the adjudication or conviction of the following:
- (a) A person or entity engaged in the illegal sale, rental, lease, or loan of a firearm in exchange for money or other thing of value; or
 - (b) A person who has committed a crime with a firearm.
- 2400.5 The amount of each cash reward shall be determined at the discretion of the Chief of Police and shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per tip.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is §6 of the Illegal Firearm Sale and Distribution Strict Liability Act of 1992, D.C. Law 9-115, D.C. Code §6-2384 (1989 Repl. Vol.).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037 (August 26, 1994).

2401 REWARD ADVISORY PANEL

- 2401.1 The Chief of Police shall establish a Reward Advisory Panel which will consist at a minimum of the following:

- (a) The Support Services Officer, who shall chair the panel;
 - (b) The Director, Criminal Investigations Division; and
 - (c) A representative from the law enforcement agency which made the arrest based on information provided if other than the Metropolitan Police Department.
- 2401.2 The Reward Advisory Panel shall review each case upon the adjudication or conviction of a defendant arrested based on information provided under this chapter in order to determine the recommended amount of the award to be paid.
- 2401.3 If information was provided by more than one source, the Reward Advisory Panel shall determine the share of the reward to be awarded to each citizen based on the value of the information to the investigation and prosecution of the case.
- 2401.4 If the candidate for a reward from this Fund was nominated by a law enforcement agency other than the Metropolitan Police Department, the Chairman of the Reward Advisory Panel shall request a representative from the arresting agency to sit on the Panel when it reviews that case.
- 2401.5 The Reward Advisory Panel shall forward its recommendations to the Chief of Police for approval.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6038 (August 26, 1994).

2402 REWARD ELIGIBILITY

- 2402.1 No reward money shall be paid to any officer or employee of a District of Columbia law enforcement agency, or of any penal, correctional, or welfare institution, or of any court, legal agency, or other agency closely involved in the criminal justice system.
- 2402.2 Witnesses who are compelled by law to testify or who give testimony in exchange for other considerations such as, but not limited to, immunity or plea bargains may not qualify for a reward unless it is determined by the Reward Advisory Panel that the information was given voluntarily at an early stage of contact with the law enforcement agency and under circumstances which would justify the payment of a reward.
- 2402.3 Special Employees of law enforcement agencies may be eligible for a reward from this Fund at the discretion of the Reward Advisory Panel.
- 2402.4 Citizens may not receive a reward for a case from this Fund if they have already received another Metropolitan Police Department or other law enforcement agency reward such as "Gotcha," "Capture," or "Crime Solvers" for the same case.
- 2402.5 Any information originally deriving from official law enforcement personnel may not be used to qualify a person for a reward from this Fund.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6038 (August 26, 1994).

2403 REWARD AMOUNT CRITERIA

2403.1 Determination of the amount of the reward shall be based on, but not limited to, the following considerations:

- (a) The nature of the defendant's involvement in major firearm-trafficking;
- (b) The number of firearm-related cases closed with the arrest of the defendant;
- (c) Other firearm-related incidents in which the defendant is known or proved to have been involved;
- (d) The seriousness of the crime committed with a firearm;
- (e) Other serious criminal activity in which the defendant has been involved;
- (f) Quality of the information supplied by the citizen;
- (g) The willingness of the citizen to testify if needed;
- (h) Share to be awarded when information from more than one citizen is involved; and
- (i) Any other factor which the panel values as a benefit to the community as a result of the apprehension and indictment of the suspect.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6039 (August 26, 1994).

2404 REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

2404.1 The Metropolitan Police Department shall publicize the Firearms Bounty Program through the media and through word of mouth by its investigators.

2404.2 The Metropolitan Police Department shall establish a twenty-four (24) hour central number for citizens to convey information regarding firearm offenses defined in this chapter. All calls shall be received in person by members of the Metropolitan Police Department, i.e., no tape recordings.

2404.3 Any element of the Metropolitan Police Department, other than that housing the central number for this Fund, shall refer citizens to the central number. If the citizen is unwilling or unable to call that number, all information will be taken and immediately relayed to the element housing the central number.

2404.4 All information received by the central number unit shall be relayed expeditiously to the appropriate investigating element of the Metropolitan Police Department.

2404.5 If information is received by members of the Metropolitan Police Department under this chapter which requires immediate attention, members shall take the appropriate action. If the action results in the arrest of a subject, arresting officers shall make reference in their report that the arrest was made based on

information provided under this chapter. Arresting officers' supervisors shall then transmit a copy of all reports to the element housing the central number established under this chapter.

- 2404.6 The Metropolitan Police Department shall be responsible for tracking all cases made by its members under this chapter through the criminal justice system up to adjudication or conviction.
- 2404.7 Upon receiving a recommendation for a reward from the Reward Advisory Panel, the Chief of Police shall within fifteen (15) days of the receipt approve the reward, reduce the reward amount, or deny the reward.
- 2404.8 The Metropolitan Police Department shall make appropriate arrangements for the disbursement of monies from the Fund in the designated amount which was approved by the Chief of Police to the intended recipient.
- 2404.9 Callers shall be advised to maintain contact with the unit housing the central number at thirty-day (30) intervals in order to ascertain the status of their case.
- 2404.10 At any time, the Chief of Police may publicly announce a specific reward from the Fund for an identified crime or series of crimes which fall under this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6040 (August 26, 1994).

2405 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 2405.1 All callers so requesting shall be given an identifying number to preserve the caller's anonymity. Although every effort will be undertaken to maintain the caller's confidentiality, complete anonymity cannot be absolutely guaranteed. Further confidential information and identification will be necessary in the event that the caller later becomes entitled to a reward.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6041 (August 26, 1994).

2406 DISTRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 2406.1 The Metropolitan Police Department shall prescribe a form and substantiating documentation to be used by other law enforcement agencies to transmit candidates for rewards from this Fund.
- 2406.2 Within fifteen (15) days of the adjudication or conviction of a defendant arrested based on information from a citizen under this chapter, the law enforcement agency shall transmit the form and substantiating documentation to the Chairman of the Reward Advisory Panel of the Metropolitan Police Department.
- 2406.3 Law enforcement agencies submitting candidates for rewards from this Fund shall assign a representative to sit on the Advisory Review Panel when that case is reviewed.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6041 (August 26, 1994).

2407 PRIVATE DONATIONS TO THE FUND

- 2407.1 Contributions to the Fund may be made by private citizens and foundations by making a check payable to the "Firearms Bounty Fund" in care of the Metropolitan Police Department and forwarding it to the following address.

Director
Finance and Budget Division
Room 4106
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2106

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6041 (August 26, 1994).

2408 REQUIRED REPORTS

- 2408.1 The Chief of Police shall report annually to the Mayor and the Council all income and expenditures of the Fund.
- 2408.2 The Reward Advisory Panel shall forward to the Chief of Police a recommendation for a reward within forty-five (45) days of the adjudication or conviction of each defendant arrested based on information provided under this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6042 (August 26, 1994).

2499 DEFINITIONS

- 2499.1 When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases of this chapter shall have the meanings ascribed:

Firearm - the same meaning as set forth in D.C. Code §6-2302(9).

Illegal firearm sale - the same meaning as set forth in D.C. Code §6-2381(4).

District of Columbia law enforcement agency - any federal or local agency whose members are authorized to make lawful arrests within the District of Columbia.

Special Employee - any citizen who routinely obtains financial remuneration from a law enforcement agency for providing information.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 6037, 6042 (August 26, 1994).

